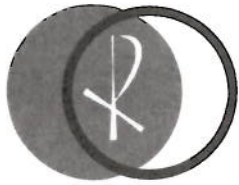


Natural Family Planning



Diocesan Activity Report

Vol. 6, No. 1, Winter 1995

Teaching NFP is a True Mission

John Paul II to Participants in NFP Teacher Education Program, 16 December 1994

The Holy Father received in audience participants of a teacher education course on NFP organized in Rome by the Centre for Studies and Research on NFP of the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart. The following are excerpts:

Your work of studying and spreading the knowledge of the natural methods for responsible parenthood is part of your service to the family so that it may fulfill its role in God's plan. It is a question of fostering the true dimension of conjugal love within the family, so that the sexual act and openness to procreation may take place in a way that respects the constitutive elements of the spousal gift.

In fact, an authentic "culture of love" demands that the sexual act between man and woman be regarded not as an occasion of utilitarian enjoyment but as an expression of the gift of the persons, in the totality of their bodily and spiritual dimensions, and in generous and responsible openness to life.

You are well aware that the affirmation of these personalist values of sexuality demand the courage to swim "against the tide." Your action, there-



fore, is not limited to spreading the scientific knowledge which makes it possible to ascertain the cycle of female fertility with increasing reliability and ease. Rather, it leads to seriously promoting a human and Christian formation which honours those values of gift, love, and life without which the very practice of the natural methods of family planning are simply impossible. Indeed, they are not a mere technique but a way of personal growth to be followed. They do not belong to a civilization of having but of being.

Therefore, persevere in this task with renewed commitment; it may be considered a true mission. I extend this encouragement to all those who, like you, in many similar, generous initiatives are collaborating in the family apostolate. . . . In the name of the Church I express my gratitude to all! ■

In This Issue

we have focused our attention on NFP program development. From a report on the Holy Father's address to NFP teacher candidates (p. 1) to innovations in NFP outreach (p. 13) this issue should give you much to consider in the long Winter months. Along with our annual diocesan NFP profile report (p. 2) and a look at NFP pioneer, Dr. Mary Catherine Martin (p. 10), this issue should be read and reread!

Diocesan NFP Profile Report-1994, Rev. Robert R. Cannon, M.A., J.C.L.	2
"Outgoing, Confident & Competent" Editorial	3
Pontifical Academy of Science Studies NFP	3
Focus: Implications of DDP Endorsement on Non-Approved NFP Teacher Education Programs	5
The National Standards	6
Demographic Aspects of NFP Robert T. Kambic, M.S.H.	8
NFP PIONEERS: NFP Teacher Training and Service Development Efforts, Mary Catherine Martin, R.N., Ph.D.	10
Vith IFFLP CONGRESS Claude A. Lanctot, M.D.	12
COORDINATORS' CORNER: "If you go, they will come." Christian Family Planning Seminars in South Dakota Jenny Sullivan	13
NEWS BRIEFS	15